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Made to the United Press Concerning the Proposed New State Penitentiary. 1948 December 20

Strom Thurmond

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STATEMENT BY J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF SOUTH
CAROLINA TO UNITED PRESS ON THE PROPOSED NEW
STATE PENITENTIARY. DECEMBER 20, 1948.

It has always been my belief that we need to place more emphasis on the rehabilitation of our criminal element, and less on punishment. When a criminal, particularly a first offender, can be returned to society as a better citizen, the result is a saving to the State in both financial and human values.

The present facilities of our State Penitentiary are inadequate for the work of rehabilitation. They do not permit the intelligent use of modern methods of penology, and in fact they often retard the best efforts of our penitentiary officials. I have recommended the construction of a new penitentiary because I believe it will pay for itself many times over within this generation.

Colonel Manning has informed me that the present plan for the new penitentiary can be carried out on a self-liquidating basis, because of the large income now being produced annually by penitentiary labor. I therefore can see no real objection to its construction.

1877 Statement